

NEW YORK THEATERS

PLAYGOERS LIKE PRODUCTIONS FROM DRAMATISTS WHO DO NOT TAKE THEMSELVES TOO SERIOUSLY.

Special Correspondence The Washington Herald.

New York, May 1.—It is a relief to go to the playhouse and come face to face with the work of a playwright who does not take himself so seriously. Eight out of ten pieces that are not musical comedies are burdened with a message to the world, usually from the pens of melancholy young men who are tired of life before they have begun to live, and who write as though they feared their message would come too late. This is the sort of play Olga Netherole gave us on Monday evening at the Savoy in "The Writing on the Wall," by William J. Hurlbut, and because Edward Locke was wise enough not to take himself too seriously "The Climax" was gladly accepted by the poor, tired public, and "The Incubus" was richly enjoyed by those who had the good fortune to see it.

"The Incubus" is from the pen of Eugene Brieux, one of the French academicians. It was translated and presented at a special matinee at the Hackett Tuesday afternoon by Laurence Irving—son of the late Sir Henry—assisted by his wife, Mabel Hackney. The two have been playing a popular tabloid version of "Louis XI" in vaudeville for some time, and arranged a production for two special matinees this week, just to try it on an American audience, for I believe it has been presented in London.

The experiment was worth trying, and I shall be greatly mistaken if New York does not register its approval of the piece, so far as its opportunities within the prescribed limits of two performances afford a chance for expression. And the reason people enjoyed it was because it gave them a chance to see a serious problem dealt with in a laughable manner. It is another of those simple little plays which catches the popular taste, as "The Climax" did.

In "The Incubus" Mr. Irving takes the role of a gray-haired, sedate, but only middle-aged professor who is conducting a ménage à deux with a shrewish but very pliant young woman named Charlotte. They quarrel daily; their bickerings keep the neighbors in a state of alarm. She tyrannizes him like a Russian corporal and tantalizes him in a thousand ways. He is a henpecked husband, indeed, while being married. Remember, we are seeing the comedy through French eyes. He is indulgent, she is fascinating. They have tried to break the bonds, but in vain. Both would rejoice if circumstances separated them, and such a circumstance occurs. The professor discovers that Charlotte has been visiting during his absence by a certain friend of his youth, one Brochat, a veterinarian, and the neighbors believe that something is wrong between the two. Then comes the usual daily quarrel, mutual protestations of indifference and temper, and Charlotte picks up her things, takes her dog, and leaves Pierre to rejoice in his recovered liberty.

And poor Pierre is indeed happy to be rid of his incubus, when Charlotte stages a sensational coup especially to the joy of her sentiments. She casts herself into the river, after writing notes to all her friends, giving the exact time and place of her heroic farewell plunge and waiting an extra hour to see if her solemn death notices would bring her friends to her rescue—though the fact is that these good friends mistook the hour of 2 for 6 and gave themselves too much latitude. But a brave old boatman was at hand with a hook. He fished Charlotte out of the water, handed her over to her friends, who took her to Pierre's lodgings, and well, the force of habit is greater than any sense of injury or anything else. Pierre once more bends his back to the scourge of his Xantippe, and is even rejoiced that she is with him again.

The object of the comedy is to illustrate that habit rules us completely, and that even when we may escape an irksome and oppressive fate, it will draw us down into the vortex with an irresistible fatality. It was delightfully played by the two principals and their support, and Miss Hackney was so clever as Charlotte that she left an indelible impression.

The critics did not mince words in expressing their opinions of "The Writing on the Wall," and they were anything but complimentary either to the author, William J. Hurlbut, or to Miss Netherole. The play was found too melancholy and the arrangement of the scenes in her first memorable attempt to portray a virtuous matron.

The piece is in four acts, and there is but one scene, that of Lawrence's library. Here and there it has some effective touches, and the arrangement of the scenes as a tenement landlord was vigorous and did not miss its effect on the audience. The house seemed to be in sympathy with the author on this subject.

Elsie Janis in "The Fair Co-Ed" was moved to the Criterion to make room for "The Candy Shop," a summer musical comedy, which opened at the Knickerbocker for an indefinite run. In the cast are Charles Rock, Maud Fulton, Marie Dresser, and Charles Lailor. Another attraction it is likely to prove popular.

"The Climax" did not go into the Majestic Theater, as I was led to believe, and as it was made to appear in last week's letter. The play, which, as will be remembered, is by Edward Locke and scored an astonishing hit at a matinee at Weber's, was produced at Daly's on Monday evening and will remain there until further notice. This change was decided on when Roy McCordell's farce, "The Gay Life," after only a week's trial, proved so disappointing that Harrison Grey Fluke concluded to withdraw it. So instead of "The Climax" Cole and Johnson, colored comedians, were put into the Majestic. Locke's little quartet drama—there are but four characters in the cast—was well received at Daly's.

Some wild rumors of rapprochement between David Belasco and Klaw & Erlanger helped to enliven an otherwise dull week in theatrical circles. Marked curiosity was aroused by the announcement that Blanche Bates would appear throughout the Northwest at an early date in houses controlled by the syndicate, and that, in order to bridge over the long-standing feud between the rival managerial factions, a happy expedition had been found in nominally giving Frederick Belasco, of San Francisco, brother of the well-known New York impresario of that name, the management of Miss Bates. While on the surface this looked plausible, in view of the fact that no denials were made by either side, Frederick Belasco told just what it all meant.

"The report is entirely misleading, so far as this arrangement is concerned," said he. "It is perfectly true that Miss Bates is to appear under my direction in theaters usually described as syndicate houses. But the whole matter will appear clear when I explain that I have never had any difficulty with the booking powers of the syndicate, and that I have booked other attractions in the same theaters in which I intend to present Miss Bates. Before the earthquake destroyed my San Francisco theater, I always had two or three companies, on

the road independent of my stock companies at 'Frisco and Los Angeles. I started Florence Roberts for seven and Winifred Whittlesley for three years over this circuit. That was before the great earthquake. Well, the plain truth is, the earthquake damaged me considerably. I have built a new theater and I wanted an attraction to help pay for it. I thought of Miss Bates, who is a California girl and a great favorite throughout the Northwest, and appealed to my brother. No one else could have made the arrangement, which was altogether a brotherly act, as any one must concede. So I shall present Miss Bates exactly under the same circumstances as I presented Miss Roberts. Of course, Miss Bates is not to pass permanently under my control. My contract calls for fourteen weeks only, during which I shall be her manager. This is during a season when she would be idle anyway, or at least be idle most of the time. At the end of the season she returns to my brother and resumes her regular tour under his direction which was long ago booked for her in the theaters where she has always appeared."

It is understood that Mrs. Leslie Carter has been engaged at a large salary to appear for four weeks in a repertoire of her plays at Delmar Garden, St. Louis, during the summer, thus following the example of Amelia Bingham and Virginia Harned, except that the latter two appeared at a rival garden, the Suburban. Both received \$1,000 a week for a term of five weeks. Mrs. Carter's salary is said to be largely in excess of this figure.

The end of the engagement of "The Queen of the Moulin Rouge" is in sight. This is the last week of the sensational show in New York, much to the astonishment of many who were led to believe that the piece was doing a tremendous business and would hold on all summer. It has been running only about four months. Paul Potter, the author, recently secured the rights to "Gretchen," the German farce which was played over 40 times in Vienna, but was prohibited in Berlin. The American author is making a specialty of turning French and German naughty plays into English, as he is also responsible for "The Girl From Rector's," which was driven out of a New Jersey town, but is still playing at Weber's. For a long time he tried to write moral plays, but his income was much smaller, except when he turned Du Maurier's story, "Trilby," into a drama.

Next week the Broadway Theater will be turned over to Felix Isman, its new lessee, who will inaugurate his regime with Lew Fields in charge of the local management and William Pavensham in "The World and His Wife" as the attraction for that week only. The advance sale is conducted from the Casino Theater this week.

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Washington's leading theatre

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Messrs. Metzgerott
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Offer the

COLUMBIA PLAYERS
"THE THREE OF US."

The Company Will Include:
Julia Dean Ruth D. Blake
Orme Calhoun Alexander Calvert
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Next Week--THE LITTLE MINISTER

Opens To-morrow
EAGLES' GREAT CARNIVAL
Opens To-morrow

Twelve Shows
THE WORLD'S GREATEST, MOST GORGEOUS AND COSTLY CARNIVAL AGGREGATION.

The Great Col. Francis Ferari's Trained Wild Animal and Arena Company

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EXPOSITION SHOWS

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FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES.

FOR THE BENEFIT SICK AND DEATH BENEFIT FUNDS.

Col. Ferari's Trained Wild Animal Arena.

The Peerless Mamie The Katzenjammer Castle
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Tiny Russian Prince The Human Buttery
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And Many Other Meritorious Shows.

BAND CONCERTS CONTINUOUSLY.

HARRY SIX, CHAMPION HIGH DIVER OF THE WORLD—TWICE DAILY.
Will dive from 100-foot ladder into 36 inches of water.

MINING, THE MARVEL.
Who ascends and descends a spiral tower 30 feet high on a unicycle amid a blaze of light.

Old B. & O. Depot Grounds, Corner New Jersey Avenue and C Street N. W.
MAY 3 TO MAY 15, INCLUSIVE

GEORGIA GIRL WITH SOTHEBY.

Miss Gladys Hanson Attractive in Role of Katherine.

A young Georgia girl, who gives every promise of a successful stage career, is Miss Gladys Hanson, of Atlanta. She has been on the stage but two years, and this season is supporting Mr. Sothby in a most acceptable manner. Tall, graceful, and well poised, her work as Katherine in the romantic drama "If I Were King," seen at the Belasco last week, was particularly effective.

While in Washington, Miss Hanson spent a day at the Capitol, visiting the various spots of interest and listening attentively to the income tax speech of Senator Bailey. On being shown the room reserved for the President she asked where was his office. She was told that the President's office was at the White House, and that he only visited the Capitol once a year and sent for Senators and Representatives to come to him when he wanted to see them. She exclaimed: "Just like the theatrical managers!"

The Supreme Court chamber proved especially interesting to the young actress. She liked the solemnity of the room and the dignity of the black-robed justices. She thought the recollection of her visit would help her when she came to study the part of Portia.

ABOUT STAGE ASPIRANTS.

Lulu Glaser Tells of Her First Trying Experiences.

Every time I receive a letter from a young lady with stage aspirations seeking advice in that direction, I am almost tempted to complain. When I pause long enough, however, to recall the perturbed condition of my own mind when I was first thinking of professing the theater, my feelings soften.

Advice, really, is just the last thing in the world they want, unless your advice to them is to go on the stage.

Let me read you a leaf from the book wherein is recorded my own experiences: That something or other, the call of the stage or whatever else it was, gripped me when I was twelve years old. I had a happy home, was beloved by my parents, my father was prosperous, and I had all the advantages of education. I was studying music. My father did not like the theater. My mother occasionally sang at church entertainments, and then, out of a clear sky this thing struck me in a heap, and I had to go on the stage. Nothing else would do. Advice when you are struck that hard! What kind of counsel can you give?

The feeling cannot be analyzed. It upset the whole family literally. Father's business suffered and home life was broken up; my mother had to give up living peacefully and had to accompany me on my stage travels. For nine years was she with me constantly, helping me with advice that only a mother could give, and I owe a lot to her for my present success. All these sacrifices in the family had to be made because Lulu wanted to go on the stage. So you see if it hits a girl like that, what's the use of prating about "advice?"

FRED. F. SCHRAEDER.

ENTERTAINMENTS TO-NIGHT.

Academy Concert To-Night.

Another pleasing comedy programme of moving pictures has been arranged for the concert at the Academy to-night. In addition to over two hours of the moving pictures there will be offerings by Howard and Wilson, German dialect comedians; character impersonations by dainty Bessie LaCombe and Walter Sondheim; and new comic songs illustrated with comedy cartoons.

Filipino Band Farewell Concert.

To-night at the Belasco Theater the Philippines Constabulary Band will render a gala concert, which will be positively their last Washington appearance. Being encouraged by the usual big attendance last Thursday afternoon, and being in this vicinity to-day, arrangements were made for this really farewell concert. That this organization can continue to play to practically capacity audiences week after week in a city not noted for its patronage of band concerts as a rule, speaks all that is necessary to demonstrate the sterling musical caliber of this band of native Filipinos. Capt. Walter Loving has arranged a very special programme, which is promised will prove the most interesting and varied of the series.

For to-night's entertainment at the Gayety Theater an extra big programme has been provided, consisting of good, clean vaudeville, which includes our favorite singer, Jim Flynn; also a novelty number, "The Young Americans," a vocal quartet, the youngest male quartet that ever appeared on any stage in Washington before, Jimmy Quinn, who will sing some catchy songs that will please you, and last, but not least, Leslie Thurston, the world's greatest xylophonist. In a novel musical act, included in the motion pictures will be many extra fine films of comedy, dramatic and Western subjects.

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Show Grounds: 15th and H Sts. N. E.

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CAPITAL INVESTED
\$3,500,000
85 RAILROAD CARS
1280 PERSONS
650 HORSES
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375 Circus Artists
200 of Them Imported
From Abroad
BIGGEST ARENO
SHOW IN THE WORLD.

Acrobats and the 12
Lorch Family
60 Aerialists
and the 10
Flying Jordans
60 Riders the Ropes
and Daisy Hodge
50 Clowns,
the World's
Funniest Men

THE SAKON TRIO
"STRONGEST OF ALL
EARTH'S STRONG MEN"

BIGGEST MENAGERIE ON EARTH.
Every Morning at 10 o'clock
BIG, NEW, GLORIOUS, RICH AND GORGEOUS
FREE STREET PARADE 3-MILES LONG
MOST OPULENT OPEN AIR SPECTACLE
EVER BEHOLD. POSITIVELY THE PER-
FECTION OF PUBLIC PAGEANTS.

All kinds of
TRAINED
WILD
ANIMALS
Schuman's
Wonderful
Horse Circus
Seen Now
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Time in
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One 30c. Ticket Admits to Everything
CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS, HALF PRICE
Shows Open at 1 and 7 P. M.
Performance Begins at 2 and 8 P. M.

Admission Tickets and Numbered
Reserved Seats will be on sale dur-
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DRUG STORE, 13th and Pa. ave., at
exactly the same price charged in
regular ticket wagons on the show
grounds.

NEW LYCEUM
Smoking Permitted in All Parts
of the House.

ALL THIS WEEK—MATS. DAILY
**THE STAR
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In Two Funny Musical Burlesques.

EXTRA! EXTRA!
MLLE. DeLEON
THE
Girl in Blue

The World's Most Sensational
Dancer.

NEXT WEEK—THE SMART SET

**FREE LECTURE ON
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BY
MR. BLISS KNAPP, C. S. B.,
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Member of the Christian Science Board of Lec-
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Admission Free. All Welcome.

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Mat. THIS WEEK
Daily 4 Live
Vaudeville Acts

Continuous 1:30
5:00 Williams & Milburn
"The Minstrel and the Maid."

Evenings 7:00
11:00 Adolph Ringling
Sensational Gymnast.

Sunday 4:00
11:00 John Mayon & Co.
Singing and Dancing Comedy.

Mamie Fulton
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Motion Pictures
Illustrated Song Hits
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TALK OF THE TOWN.

10c—Any Seat—10c

Rhythm and Music Interpretations
By
MRS. LUCIA GALE BARBER,
Assisted by Classes of Young Women and Children
AT THE NEW MASONIC TEMPLE AUDI-
TORIUM
New York Ave. and 13th St. N.W.
THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 6, 1909,
at 4:30 o'clock.

Tickets, 10c, \$1.00, and \$5.00, for sale by T. Arthur Smith, Agent, 1117 F St. N.W., Phone 31, 400, and by Mrs. Mary Gale Barber, The Burlington, Phone 5, 14.

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The cast of favorites will include Helen
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Warning: Disparaged for a Comic Opera.

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IRENE FRANKLIN,
Indescribably charming,
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Dancers, and Acrobats in Kilts
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Impersonations in Song.

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